Greetings parents,

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a fantastic Fall Break. It’s hard to believe that we’ve officially completed one quarter of the 2019/2020 school year. Fall Break always seems to come at just the right time. Kids, families and staff are all ready for a well-deserved respite from the demands that come from school being in session. I can say with resolute confidence that a break was just what we needed before heading into the second trimester. While the initial trimester was an outstanding success, I am fully confident that the next several weeks will provide opportunities for even more positive outcomes.

As part of our quarterly tradition, coming back from any extended break, we host what we call grade level PRIDE Chats. By now, I hope it is well known that our one school rule is PRIDE (Perseverance, Responsibility, Integrity, Dedication and Empathy). This is truly how we expect students to “do” school. Our staff at Ponderosa works hard to instill the tenets of PRIDE into all that we do, making sure students internalize these essential concepts and expectations. Students demonstrating expected behaviors are reinforced with rewards, while students making unhealthy decisions receive redirection through restorative practices. Part of what makes this work at Ponderosa is ensuring that we remind students of PRIDE and our expectations at strategic points throughout the school year – typically coming back from an extended break from school. These reminders come in the form of PRIDE Chats, which are assemblies where Mrs. Pierce (Assistant Principal), Mrs. Turner (Psychologist), Mrs. Calabrese (Social Worker), Mr. Riebhoff (Behavior Support Specialist) and myself facilitate grade-level discussions about PRIDE. These discussions also feature opportunities for us to celebrate areas in which students are demonstrating success while also spending time discussing where students need to focus and improve.

(continue)
Our PRIDE Chats, coming back from Fall Break, included a review of PRIDE and offered students opportunities to provide examples of behaviors that align with each of the PRIDE attributes. I am proud to report that our students, primary and intermediate, have a deep working knowledge of each attribute. This makes us all very pleased. We also discussed three areas in which we wanted our students to focus on improving:

- Making threats
- Treatment of guest teachers
- Rumors and gossip

Each student at Ponderosa is expected to demonstrate responsibility, integrity and empathy. With this in mind, students making threats do not exude these essential attributes in PRIDE, and they disrupt our caring community. During each PRIDE Chat we asked students for examples of threats they have heard and offered alternatives to making threats. I also informed students that making threats can result in extreme consequences, sometimes resulting in suspension from school. Threats and/or threatening behavior will not be tolerated. Safety is essential to learning, which is what we do at Ponderosa.

At times throughout the year, we can expect that teachers will miss time in the classroom for a variety of reasons. In most cases an absence happens as a result of teachers participating in a professional development opportunity or a teacher illness. When this occurs, a guest-teacher steps in to ensure learning continues to happen. Unfortunately, our guest teachers have been challenged by the behaviors demonstrated in the classroom this school year. I shared with students that the “guest” in the word guest-teacher is the part of the word I want them to focus on. I shared the perspective that a guest is typically treated in a way that is special, perhaps even better than those we see every day. The overarching message and expectation is that guest-teachers are welcomed into our building and provided the “VIP” treatment.

Rumors and gossip run rampant in our society, throughout the workplace and in neighborhood communities. The roots of this form of conversation often originate with ill intent. The same can be said for any type of gossip or rumor that starts at school. When students start gossip or spread rumors they are harming the climate and culture at school, perhaps making the environment intimidating and antagonistic. In the least harmful scenario, feelings get hurt and friendships become damaged. In the most unfortunate of circumstances, rumors and gossip can lead to verbal and physical conflict. In addition, the spreading of rumors or gossip is often considered a form of bullying. As a team we spoke with students and asked them ways in which they can interact in healthy ways, ensuring that they employ empathy when tempted to say something unkind about a peer at school. Our students are understanding and shared their insights, most of which were spot on. If our kids follow through with their commitment to eliminate gossip and rumors, our Ponderosa community will be one that is healthy and caring indeed.

On Thursday, November 14, we will host our initial PRIDE Assembly of 2019/2020. This will be the very first time this school year that we publicly celebrate those students who have consistently demonstrated the character attributes in PRIDE. There will be many who will be celebrated and we look forward to partnering with parents to ensure the celebration is one worth remembering.

Sincerely,

Chad M. Gerity
Principal of Ponderosa Elementary
Vaccines protect children from serious illnesses. The deadline for immunization compliance at Ponderosa is **November 1st**. Immunization letters have been sent home. If you received one, please contact the nurse with any questions. Please see the attached schedule which provides opportunities for students to receive their immunizations. Call the Tri-County Health Line for any questions regarding this at 303-451-0123.

Please feel free to contact the school nurse with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Aloni MSN, RNC
School Nurse
Ponderosa Elementary School
Office: 720-747-2809
Fax: 720-747-2888
jaloni@cherrycreekschools.org
# Shots for Tots and Teens

## 2019 Low-cost Immunizations
For children & teens

<table>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aurora Fire Station #2</strong></td>
<td>12600 Hoffman Blvd. Aurora, CO 80011&lt;br&gt;10 am - 1 pm&lt;br&gt;2nd Saturday of each month&lt;br&gt;October 12, November 9, December 14&lt;br&gt;(303) 451-0123&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt; Serving uninsured, Medicaid, CHP+, and most privately insured patients. Unable to see patients with Kaiser and select private insurances.</td>
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<td><strong>Denver Health Rita Bass Trauma &amp; EMS Education Institute</strong></td>
<td>190 W. 6th Ave. Denver, CO 80204&lt;br&gt;9 am - 1 pm&lt;br&gt;On the following dates:&lt;br&gt;September 28, October 26, November 16, December 14&lt;br&gt;(303) 602-3520 Serving uninsured, Medicaid, CHP+, and privately insured patients. Unable to see patients with Kaiser or Humana.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Arvada Safety Fair</strong></td>
<td>Arvada Fire Safety Training Center 6651 Indiana St. Arvada, CO 80007&lt;br&gt;September 28, 10 am - 2 pm&lt;br&gt;Arvada Fire Station #2 5250 Oak St. Arvada, CO 80002&lt;br&gt;10 am - 1 pm&lt;br&gt;November 2, December 7&lt;br&gt;(303) 239-7078 Serving uninsured, Medicaid, CHP+, and most privately insured patients. Unable to see patients with Kaiser and select private insurances.</td>
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**NEW CLINIC! City of Thornton’s Active Adult Center**
9471 Dorothy Blvd, Thornton, CO 80229<br>November 16 | 10 am - 1 pm<br>www.shotsfortotsandteens.org

Walk-in clinic—No appointment necessary
Parent or legal guardian must be present
You MUST bring your child’s immunization record EVERY time!
Now offering adult vaccines—Call for more information

***Prizes for children & Tours of fire engines and ambulances***
Vacunas para Pequeños y adolescentes

2019
Vacunas a Bajo Costo
para los niños y adolescentes

Aurora Fire Station #2
12600 Hoffman Blvd.
Aurora, CO 80011
10 am - 1 pm
Segundo sábado de cada mes
12 de Octubre
9 de Noviembre
14 de Diciembre

(303) 451-0123
Sirviendo a los pacientes con Medicaid, CHP+, sin seguro y con la mayoría de seguros privados. No podemos ver a los pacientes de Kaiser y con algunos seguros privados.

Denver Health Rita bass Trauma & EMS Education Institute
190 W. 6th Ave.
Denver, CO 80204
9 am - 1 pm
En las siguientes fechas:
26 de Enero
28 de Septiembre
26 de Octubre
16 de Noviembre
14 de Diciembre

(303) 602-3520
Sirviendo a personas con Medicaid, CHP+, seguro privado y personas sin seguro medico. No podemos atender a pacientes con Kaiser ni Humana.

Arvada Safety Fair
Arvada Fire Safety Training Center
6651 Indiana St.
Arvada, CO 80007
28 de Septiembre
10 am - 2 pm

Arvada Fire Station #2
5250 Oak St.
Arvada, CO 80022
10 am - 1 pm
2 de Noviembre
7 de Diciembre

(303) 239-7078
Sirviendo a los pacientes con Medicaid, CHP+, sin seguro y con la mayoría de seguros privados. No podemos ver a los pacientes de Kaiser y con algunos seguros privados.

NUEVA CLÍNICA! City of Thornton’s Active Adult Center
9471 Dorothy Blvd, Thornton, CO 80229
16 de Noviembre 16 | 10 am - 1 pm

www.vacunasparapequenos.org

NO NECESITA CITA
El padre o el guardiano legal debe estar presente

Traiga la tarjeta de vacunas de su niño o adolescente

***Premios y actividades para los niños & Viajes de camión de bomberos y de ambulancias***

Ahora ofrecemos vacunas para adultos - llame para más información

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Tri-County Health Department
Aurora
Jefferson County Public Health
Falck
Denver Public Health

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COLORADO CHILDREN'S IMMUNIZATION COALITION
AURORA
FALCK
Rotary